

an associated at least one of (1) a file designation and (2) a command designation, wherein said media receiver station has a processor for controlling presentation of media programming, and wherein said processor is programmed to present said media programming in accordance with at least one instruction of a media programming supplier of said media transmitter station, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at said media receiver station availability information of said media programming from said media transmitter station; and

transmitting said at least one command to said media transmitter station, wherein said at least one command designates for each of a plurality of units of said media programming at least one of (1) a time of transmission and (2) a channel of transmission, and wherein said at least one command designating for each of said plurality of units of media programming said at least one of (1) said file designation and (2) said command designation; and

causing said media transmitter station in response to said at least one command to transfer said at least one of said plurality of units of media programming from said at least one computer peripheral storage location and to transmit said at least one of said plurality of units of media programming based on said at least one of said time of transmission and said channel of transmission to said media receiver station.

30. (New Claim) The method of claim 29, further comprising the steps of:

communicating said at least one unit of media programming to a switch; delaying communication of said at least one of said plurality of units of media programming at a storage location associated with said switch; and

communicating said at least one of said units of media programming from said storage location to said media receiver station.

31. (New Claim) The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of:

reordering a sequence of at least two of said plurality of units of media programming.

32. (New Claim) The method of claim 29, wherein said at least one command designates a timing schedule for transmission of each of said plurality of units of media programming, wherein each of said plurality of units includes one of: (1) video programming, (2) audio programming, (3) computer programming, (4) hardcopy programming, and (5) electronic data, and wherein said timing schedule transmits a complete set of programming instructions associated with one media programming presentation.

33. (New Claim) The method of 29, wherein presenting a product comprises delivering a physical element and outputting a programming datum said method further comprising the steps of;

transmitting instructions for presenting said product;

performing in said network at least one of (1) delaying communication of said instructions in response to an instruction-to-delay signal, (2) checking a clock to determine when to communicate information associated with said product, (3) generating a programming datum in response to an instruct-to-generate signal, and (4) processing information associated with presenting said product in response to a second command; and

delivering said product at said media receiver station.

34. (New Claim) The method of claim 29, further comprising one of the steps of:

outputting said media programming at said media receiver station,  
wherein said media programming includes an offer to a product;

inputting a response command, wherein said response command includes one of (1) a subscriber reaction to said media programming, and (2) a computer input; and

transmitting an order from said media receiver station.

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35. (New Claim) A method of controlling a media network, wherein said media network includes a media transmitter station and a media receiver station, wherein said media transmitter station has a computer for controlling communication of signals, wherein said computer is programmed to perform one of (1) communicating a file stored at a computer peripheral storage location and (2) controlling communication of media programming in accordance with a first command, wherein said media transmitter station stores at least one of a plurality of units of media programming, wherein each of said plurality of units of media programming has an associated one of (1) a file designation datum and (2) a command designation datum, wherein said media receiver station includes a processor for controlling presentation of said at least one of said plurality of media programming, and wherein said processor is programmed to perform at least one of (1) presenting said at least one of said plurality of units of media programming in a predetermined fashion based on a second command; and (2) enabling a presentation of said at least one of said plurality of units of media programming in accordance with an instruction of a media programming supplier of the media transmitter station, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one availability datum indicating availability of said at least one of said plurality of media programming from said media transmitter station; and

transmitting said first command to said media transmitter station, wherein said command designates for said at least one of said plurality of units of media programming at least one of (1) a time of transmission and (2) a channel of transmission, wherein said first command designates for said at least one of said plurality of units of media programming said one of (1) said file designation datum and (2) said command designation datum, thereby to cause said media transmitter station to input a communication control datum to said computer;

communicating said at least one of said plurality of units of media programming from said at least one computer peripheral storage location; and

transmitting at least one of said plurality of units of media programming at said at least one of said time of transmission and said channel of transmission.

36. (New Claim) A method of controlling a media network, wherein said media network has a media transmitter station and a media receiver station, wherein said media transmitter station includes a computer for controlling communication of signals, wherein said computer is programmed to control communication of media programming in accordance with a first command, wherein with said media transmitter station stores at least one of a plurality of units of media programming, wherein each of said stored at least one of said plurality of units of media programming has an associated at least one of (1) a file designation datum, and (2) a command designation datum, wherein said media receiver station has a processor for controlling presentation of said media programming, and wherein said processor is programmed to present said at least

one of said plurality of units of media programming in a predetermined fashion and based on a second command, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one availability datum indicating availability of said media programming from said media transmitter station; and

transmitting said first command to said media transmitter station, wherein said first command designates for each of said plurality of units of media programming at least one of (1) a time of transmission, and (2) a channel of transmission, and wherein said first command designates for said at least one of said plurality of units of media programming said at least one of (1) said file designation datum, and (2) said command designation datum; and

causing said media transmitter station in response to said first command to:

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- (a) input a communication control datum to said computer;
  - (b) communicate said at least one of said plurality of units of media programming from a computer peripheral file storage medium; and
  - (c) transmit said at least one of said plurality of units of media programming based on said at least one of said time of transmission and said channel of transmission.

37. (New Claim) A method of controlling a remote intermediate transmitter station to communicate mass medium programming to a remote receiver station and controlling said remote receiver station to deliver an individualized mass medium programming presentation, said method comprising the steps of:

- (1) receiving said mass medium programming to be transmitted by the remote intermediate transmitter station and delivering said mass medium programming to at least one origination transmitter;

(2) receiving at least one instruct signal at said remote intermediate transmitter station, wherein said at least one instruct signal is operative at said remote receiver station to control delivery of at least one receiver specific datum during said individualized mass medium programming presentation;

(3) receiving at least one control signal at said remote intermediate transmitter station, wherein said at least one control signal operates at said remote intermediate transmitter station to control communication of at least one of said mass medium programming and said at least one instruct signal; and

(4) transmitting from said remote intermediate transmitter station, in accordance with said at least one control signal, at least one information transmission containing said mass medium programming and said at least one instruct signal.

E1 38. (New Claim) The method of claim 37, wherein said mass medium programming includes one of audio and text.

39. (New Claim) The method of claim 37, wherein said mass medium programming is a television program.

40. (New Claim) The method of claim 37, wherein said at least one instruct signal includes downloadable code.

41. (New Claim) The method of claim 37, wherein said at least one control signal includes at least one of a code and a datum which operate at said remote intermediate transmitter station to identify said mass medium programming, said method further comprising the step of:

transmitting a schedule which operates at said remote intermediate program transmitter station to communicate said mass medium programming to said at least one origination transmitter at a specific time.

42. (New Claim) The method of claim 41, wherein said specific time is a scheduled time of transmitting said mass medium programming from said remote intermediate transmitter station, and wherein said at least one control signal is effective at said remote intermediate transmitter station to control at least one of a plurality of selective transfer devices at different times.

43. (New Claim) The method of claim 37, further comprising the step of embedding a specific one of said at least one control signal in said mass medium programming before transmitting said mass medium programming to said remote intermediate transmitter station.

44. (New Claim) The method of claim 37, wherein said remote intermediate transmitter station communicates said mass medium programming according to a schedule, and wherein a specific one of said at least one control signal is effective at said remote intermediate transmitter station to communicate said mass medium programming to one of (1) said at least one origination transmitter a plurality of times and (2) to a plurality of second transmitters.

45. (New Claim) A method of controlling a remote intermediate transmitter station to communicate program material to a remote receiver station and controlling said remote receiver station to process a receiver specific response, said method comprising the steps of:

- (1) receiving mass medium programming to be transmitted by said remote intermediate transmitter station and delivering said mass medium programming to at least one origination transmitter;
- (2) receiving at least one instruct signal at said remote intermediate transmitter station;
- (3) receiving at least one control signal at said remote intermediate transmitter station, wherein said at least one control signal controls communication of said mass medium programming and said at least one instruct signal between said remote intermediate transmitter station and said remote receiver station; and
- (4) transmitting from said remote intermediate transmitter station at least one information transmission containing said mass medium programming and said at least one instruct signal.

46. (New Claim) A method of controlling a remote intermediate transmitter station to communicate program material to a remote receiver station and controlling said remote receiver station to communicate a response generated at said remote receiver station to a remote data collection station, said method of controlling comprising the steps of:

- (1) receiving programming to be transmitted from said remote intermediate transmitter station;
- (2) receiving at least one instruct signal at said remote intermediate transmitter station, wherein said at least one instruct signal operates at said remote receiver station to direct said remote receiver station to create and communicate a receiver specific record to said remote data collection station;
- (3) receiving at least one control signal at said remote intermediate transmitter station, wherein said at least one control signal controls



communication of said programming and said at least one instruct signal between said remote intermediate transmitter station and said remote receiver station; and

(4) transmitting from said remote intermediate transmitter station at least one information transmission containing said unit of programming and said at least one instruct signal at a specific time in response to said at least one control signal.

47. (New Claim) A method of controlling at least one remote receiver station from a transmitter station, wherein said transmitter station includes a broadcast or cablecast transmitter for transmitting at least one control signal, a selective transfer device operatively connected to said plurality of broadcast or cablecast transmitter, a plurality of control signal sources, and a computer operatively connected to at least one of said plurality of control signal sources and said selective transfer device for controlling at least one of said at least one of said plurality of control signal sources and said selective transfer device, said method comprising the steps of:

- (1) receiving and storing at said transmitter station a first selection control signal;
- (2) selecting, in accordance with said first selection control signal, at least one of said plurality of control signal sources;
- (3) controlling said selective transfer device to communicate at least one second selection control signal from said selected said at least one of said plurality of control signal sources to said broadcast or cablecast transmitter, wherein said at least one second selection control signal is operative at said at least one remote receiver station to perform at least one of receiving and outputting at least one of (1) mass medium programming and (2) information to

perform one of supplementing and completing said mass medium programming; and

(4) transmitting said at least one second selection control signal to said at least one remote receiver station.

48. (New Claim) A method of controlling a network that communicates one of a television and a radio signal, said network comprising at least one transmitter station for transmitting said at least one of a television and a radio signal, and at least one receiver station for receiving said at least one of a television and a radio signal, said at least one transmitter station and said at least one receiver station each having respectively a computer for controlling the communication of signals, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting said at least one of a television and a radio signal, said at least one of a television and a radio signal including at least one of a program and a commercial, said at least one of a program and a commercial including at least an audio portion, said selected one of a television and a radio signal having an identification datum, said identification datum indicating said at least one of a program and a commercial;

communicating said selected one of a television and a radio signal to a signal generator;

adding one or more instruct signals to said selected one of a television and a radio signal, said one or more instruct signals operative at said at least one transmitter station and said at least one receiver station to control one or more of reception and communication of said selected one of a television and a radio signal; and

transmitting said selected one of a television and a radio signal and said one or more instruct signals to said at least one transmitter station.

49. (New Claim) The method of claim 48, wherein said one of a television and a radio signal includes at least one of a non-visible portion and a non-audible portion, said one of a television and a radio signal further includes information, said method further comprising, selecting said television or radio signal based upon a comparison, and said method further having one from the group consisting of:

embedding the instruct signal in said non-visible portion or said non-audible portion of said television or radio signal;

communicating at least some of a schedule to at least one of said receiver stations;

comparing information in said television or radio signal to information stored at a receiver station in said network;

selecting at least some portion of said television or radio signal on the basis of at least one of said instruct signals; and

identifying a unit of television or radio programming on the basis of said at least some of a schedule.

50. (New Claim) The method of claim 48, wherein said identification datum is communicated to a remote data collection station, said method further comprising the steps of:

selecting said identification datum at a station in said network; and

communicating said identification datum to said at least one transmitter station.

51. (New Claim) The method of claim 48, wherein a receiver station identifies one of a unit of television and of radio programming, said one of a unit of television and of radio programming having a respective title, said

receiver station being capable of identifying said one of a unit of television and of radio programming on the basis of said respective title, said method further comprising the step of transmitting data that identifies information contained in said one of a unit of television and of radio programming.

52. (New Claim) The method of claim 48, wherein at least one of the receiver stations selects a unit of television or radio programming, said unit of television or radio programming having a respective subject matter, said at least one receiver station being capable of selecting said unit of television or radio programming on the basis of said subject matter.

53. (New Claim) The method of claim 48, wherein said television signal includes an audio portion and at least a portion of full motion video.

54. (New Claim) The method of claim 48, wherein said instruct signal includes said identification datum.

55. (New Claim) A method of controlling a remote intermediate mass medium program transmitter station to communicate mass medium programming to a remote receiver station, said method comprising the steps of:  
receiving at an origination station a unit of mass medium programming;  
transmitting both the unit of mass medium programming and a first signal from the origination station to an intermediate mass medium program transmitter station;  
receiving at said intermediate mass medium program transmitter station the unit of mass medium programming and said first signal;

retransmitting, based on said first signal, the unit of mass medium programming from said intermediate mass medium program transmitter station to said receiver station; and

receiving and displaying said unit of mass medium programming at said remote receiver station.

56. (New Claim) The method of claim 55, further comprising the steps of:

storing the unit of mass medium programming at the intermediate mass medium program transmitter station;

receiving and storing at said intermediate mass medium program transmitter station, information designating at least a time for retransmitting said unit of mass medium programming to the remote receiver station; and

comparing, at the intermediate mass medium program transmitter station, the first signal to the stored information to identify at least a time for retransmitting said unit of programming to said remote receiver station, said retransmission being performed based upon said comparison.

57. (New Claim) The method of claim 55 wherein said step of transmitting from the origination station comprises the step of transmitting both the unit of mass medium programming and a second signal from the origination station to said intermediate mass medium program transmitter station, said second signal comprising an identification signal identifying the unit of programming transmitted therewith.

58. (New Claim) The method of claim 55, wherein said unit of mass medium programming is television programming, said television programming including an audio portion and at least a portion of full motion video.

59. (New Claim) A method of controlling a remote intermediate mass medium program transmitter station to communicate mass medium programming to a remote receiver station, said method of controlling comprising the steps of:

receiving at an origination station a unit of mass medium programming;  
transmitting both the unit of mass medium programming and a first signal from the origination station to an intermediate mass medium program transmitter station;

receiving at said intermediate mass medium program transmitter station the unit of mass medium programming and said first signal;

retransmitting, based on said first signal, the unit of mass medium programming from the intermediate mass medium program transmitter station to the remote receiver station;

receiving at said remote receiver station said retransmitted unit of mass medium programming;

generating, under computer control at the remote receiver station, user specific output; and

outputting at said remote receiver station, a media presentation comprising said unit of mass medium programming and said generated user specific output.

60. (New Claim) The method of claim 59 wherein said step of generating comprises the steps of:

transmitting a second signal from the intermediate mass medium program transmitter station to the remote receiver station;

receiving said second signal at said remote receiver station; and

generating, under computer control at said remote receiver station in response to said second signal, a user specific output.

61. (New Claim) The method of claim 59 wherein said step of outputting comprises the steps of:

transmitting a second signal from said remote intermediate mass medium program transmitter station to said remote receiver station;

receiving said second signal at said remote receiver station; and

outputting, based on said second signal, the unit of mass medium programming and the generated user specific output to provide a multimedia presentation at said remote receiver station.

62. (New Claim) The method of claim 59, wherein said mass medium programming is television programming, said television programming including an audio portion and at least a portion of full motion video.

63. (New Claim) A method of controlling a remote intermediate mass medium program transmitter station to communicate mass medium programming to a remote receiver station, said method of controlling comprising the steps of:

receiving at an origination station a unit of mass medium programming;

transmitting the unit of mass medium programming, an identification signal identifying the unit of programming and one or more control signals from the origination station to an intermediate mass medium program transmitter station, at least said identification signal being transmitted concurrently with said unit of programming;

receiving at said intermediate mass medium program transmitter station said unit of mass medium programming, said identification signal and said one or more control signals;

detecting said identification signal;

retransmitting said unit of mass medium programming, said identification signal and said one or more of the control signals from said intermediate mass medium program transmitter station to said remote receiver station based on said identification signal; and

receiving at said remote receiver station said unit of mass medium programming, said identification signals and said one or more control signals.

64. (New Claim) The method of claim 63 further comprising the steps of:

detecting, at the intermediate mass medium program transmitter station, the identification signal during the step of retransmitting;

logging said step of retransmitting based on the step of detecting said identification signal during said step of retransmitting.

65. (New Claim) The method of claim 63, wherein said unit of mass medium programming is television programming, said television programming including an audio portion and at least a portion of full motion video.

66. (New Claim) A method of controlling a remote intermediate mass medium program transmitter station to communicate mass medium programming to a remote receiver station, said method of controlling comprising the steps of:

receiving at an origination station one or more units of mass medium programming;



transmitting said one or more units of mass medium programming, an identification signal identifying the one or more units of mass medium programming and one or more control signals, from said origination station to an intermediate mass medium program transmitter station, at least the identification signal being transmitted concurrently with said one or more units of mass medium programming;

storing at said intermediate mass medium transmitter station, a programming schedule designating at least one of a time and a channel for transmitting said one or more units of mass medium mass programming;

receiving at the intermediate mass medium transmitter station said one or more units of mass medium programming, said identification signal and said one or more control signals;

detecting said identification signal;

comparing said identification signal to said programming schedule;

retransmitting said one or more units of mass medium programming, said identification signal and said one or more control signals from said intermediate mass medium program transmitter station to said remote receiver station according to said programming schedule based on said step of comparing; and

receiving at said remote receiver station said one or more units of mass medium programming and said one or more control signals.

67. (New Claim) The method of claim 66, wherein said one of more units of mass medium programming are television programming, said television programming including an audio portion and at least a portion of full motion video.

68. (New Claim) A method of controlling a remote intermediate mass medium program transmitter station to communicate mass medium programming to a remote receiver station, said method of controlling comprising the steps of:

receiving at an origination station a unit of mass medium programming;

transmitting said unit of mass medium programming, an identification signal identifying said unit of mass medium programming and one or more control signal from said origination station to an intermediate mass medium program transmitter station, at least said identification signal being transmitted concurrently with said unit of mass medium programming;

storing at said intermediate mass medium program transmitter station, a programming schedule designating at least one of a time and a channel for transmitting one or more units of programming;

receiving at said intermediate mass medium program transmitter station said unit of mass medium programming, said identification signal and said one or more control signals;

detecting said identification signal;

comparing said identification signal to said programming signal and said one or more of the control signals from said intermediate mass medium program transmitter station to said remote receive station according to said programming schedule;

receiving at said remote receiver station said unit of mass medium programming and said one or more control signals; and

outputting the unit of mass medium programming on an output device;

generating, under computer control, a user specific output; and

outputting said generated user specific output on output device, such that the one or more steps of outputting the programming, generating the user specific output, and outputting the generated output are controlled on the basis of said one or more control signals received at said remote receiver station.

69. (New Claim) The method of claim 68 further comprising the steps of:

detecting at the intermediate mass medium program transmitter station, the identification signal; and

logging said step of retransmitting based on said step of detecting said identification signal.

70. (New Claim) The method of claim 68, wherein said unit of mass medium programming is television programming, said television programming including an audio portion and at least a portion of full motion video.

71. (New Claim) A method of communicating units of programming in a communications network, said communications network including one or more origination stations and an intermediate transmission station, said intermediate transmission station having a programming receiver, at least one selective transmission device for transferring programming from said programming receiver to a transmitter, an automatic control unit operatively connected to said selective transmission device, and a detector operatively connected to said automatic control unit for detecting one or more signals, said method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a plurality of units of programming from said origination stations, said plurality of units of programming including at least one signal for comparison;

said intermediate transmission station receiving and passing to said automatic control unit, said comparison schedule;  
receiving said plurality of units of programming;  
detecting and passing to said automatic control unit at least one signal for comparison; and  
selectively performing at least one of the steps of storing and retransmitting said plurality of units of programming based upon comparisons performed by said automatic control unit at different times in accordance with said comparison schedule.

72. (New Claim) The method of claim 71, wherein said plurality of units of programming are television programming, said television programming including an audio portion and at least a portion of full motion video.

73. (New Claim) A method of communicating units of programming to an intermediate transmitter station in a communications network, said communications network including at least one origination station and an intermediate transmission station, said intermediate transmission station having a receiver, at least one selective transfer device for transferring units of programming from said receiver to a transmitter, an automatic control unit operatively connected to said selective transmission device, and a detector operatively connected to said automatic control unit, said method comprising the steps of:

(1) receiving a comparison schedule in said at least one origination station and delivering said comparison schedule to at least one origination transmitter before a specific time, said comparison schedule being effective at the intermediate transmission station to instruct said automatic control unit to

perform comparisons and at least one of to store and to retransmit said units of programming;

(2) receiving said units of programming in said at least one origination station;

(3) receiving a signal for comparison in said at least one origination station;

(4) delivering said units of programming and said signal for comparison to said at least one origination transmitter, said signal for comparison being included in said units of programming and being delivered to said at least one origination transmitter before said specific time; and

(5) transmitting from said origination stations said comparison schedule, said units of programming and said signal for comparison.

74. (New Claim) The method of claim 73, wherein said units of programming are television programming, said television programming including an audio portion and at least a portion of full motion video.

75. (New Claim) A method of communicating one or more units of programming in a communications network, said communications network including at least one origination station and an intermediate transmission station, said at least one origination station having at least one origination transmitter, said intermediate transmission station having a transmitter, a plurality of storage locations capable of receiving and storing at least one unit of programming, a receiver, and an automatic control unit operatively connected to at least one of said plurality of storage locations, said intermediate transmission station capable of delayed transmission, said method comprising the steps of:

transmitting at least one of said one or more units of programming from said at least one origination stations;

transmitting a selection control signal from said at least one origination station ;

receiving said selection control signal and at least one of said one or more units of programming at said intermediate transmission station,

passing said selection control signal to said automatic control unit;

selecting at least one of said plurality of storage locations to store at least one of said one or more units of programming for delayed transmission, selecting at least one of said one or more units of programming to be delayed, said at least one of said plurality of storage locations and said at least one or more units of programming being selected in accordance with said selection control signal; and

controlling said selected one of a plurality of storage locations to store the selected unit of programming to be delayed.

76. (New Claim) The method of claim 75, wherein said one or more units of programming are television programming, said television programming including an audio portion and at least a portion of full motion video.

77. (New Claim) A method of communicating information in a financial information receiver system, said financial information receiver system including a cable system, said cable system having a first receiver for receiving financial data including price data related to financial securities, a second receiver for receiving news items including television programming, a switch for switching communications transmissions, one or more storage devices for storing said financial data and said news items, and one or more user stations,

each user station for receiving and communicating financial information to a subscriber, with each user station having a third receiver, a computer operatively connected to said third receiver, and an output device operatively connected to said third receiver and said computer for outputting said financial information, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a digital communications signal, said digital communications signal including said financial data;

supplying one or more comparison signals, each comparison signal including an identifier of at least one of a news item and a financial datum;

detecting the presence of at least one instruct-to-coordinate signal at said receiver station, each said at least one instruct-to-coordinate signal designating information content to be coordinated with a news item and at least one of:

(1) at least one financial datum to communicate to a storage location for subsequent processing;

(2) financial output information content to be generated; and

(3) a signal identifying news to be communicated;

generating said financial output information content by processing data stored in said computer in response to an instruct-to-generate signal; and

communicating television programming to said subscriber that contains said financial output information content and said news item.

78. (New Claim) The method of claim 77, further comprising the step of programming said computer to perform one or more of the group consisting of:

storing a data portfolio, said data portfolio comprising one or more identification data of financial securities;

receiving and processing news items related to said financial data;

responding to instructions received with a television signal;  
presenting a news item or television programming in one or more  
predetermined fashions.

79. (New Claim) A method of communicating television programming  
in a television communications network, said communications network having  
one or more programming origination stations, at least one intermediate  
transmitter station, and at least one receiver station, said method comprising the  
steps of:

transmitting a plurality of channels of television programming  
concurrently from said one or more programming origination stations to said at  
least one intermediate transmitter station, each channel communicating  
television programming and at least one identification signal, said television  
programming including at least one of (i) audio and (ii) a plurality of video  
images to be displayed in a predetermined sequence to portray motion;

receiving the plurality of channels of programming at said at least one  
intermediate transmitter station;

detecting at least one of the identification signals transmitted on the  
received programming channels;

retransmitting said plurality of channels of television programming on a  
plurality of retransmission channels or frequencies;

selecting at least one of said plurality of retransmission channels or  
frequencies based on said detected at least one identification signal;

selectively retransmitting the programming from one or more of the  
received programming channels over said at least one selected one of said



plurality of retransmission channels or frequencies to said at least one receiver station based on the identification signals; and

receiving, at the receiver station, the programming transmitted from said at least one intermediate transmitter station.

80. (New Claim) The method of claim 79, wherein each said identification signal comprises at least one of:

- a signal identifying the source of the programming;
- a signal identifying the origination station transmitting the programming;
- a signal identifying the transmitted unit of programming; and
- a signal identifying the subject matter of the programming.

81. (New Claim) The method of claim 79, further comprising the step of storing at the intermediate transmitter station a programming schedule identifying each said programming channel, the identification signals transmitted with each programming channel and the scheduled time for the intermediate transmitter station to receive one or more units of programming over the programming channels.

82. (New Claim) The method of claim 79, wherein said step of selectively retransmitting comprises the steps of:

- selecting one of the received programming channels;
- selecting an output channel or frequency for retransmitting the selected received programming channel;

configuring, automatically under computer control, a switch at the intermediate transmitter station to retransmit the selected received programming channel to a receiver station over the selected output channel or frequency.

83. (New Claim) The method of claim 79, further comprising the steps of:

scanning the plurality of the received programming channels;  
detecting the identification signals on each of the plurality of channels;  
identifying one of the programming channels communicating a predetermined identification signal based on said steps of scanning and detecting;

wherein said step of selectively retransmitting comprises the step of retransmitting the programming from the identified channel over a retransmission channel or frequency over a cable distribution network.

84. (New Claim) A method of communicating television programming in a television communications network, said communications network having at least one programming origination station, at least one intermediate transmitter station, and at least one viewer station, said method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a plurality of channels of television programming concurrently from said at least one programming origination station to said at least one intermediate transmitter station, each channel communicating television programming and at least one identification signal, each said at least one identification signal identifying the television programming communicated therewith, said television programming including at least one of (i) audio and (ii)

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a plurality of video images to be displayed in a predetermined sequence to portray motion;

storing a programming schedule at the at least one intermediate transmitter station;

receiving the plurality of channels of programming at the at least one intermediate transmitter station;

detecting the identification signals on at least one of the received programming channels;

retransmitting said plurality of channels of programming on a plurality of retransmission channels or frequencies;

selecting at least one of said plurality of retransmission channels or frequencies based on at least one of said detected identification signals;

comparing the detected identification signals to the programming schedule;

selecting at least a portion of said received television programming for retransmission based on said step of comparing;

retransmitting the selected television programming from one or more of said received plurality of channels of programming "n from the at least one intermediate transmitter station over said at least one selected one of said plurality of retransmission channels or frequencies to said at least one viewer station; and

receiving, at said at least one viewer station, said selected television programming transmitted from the at least one intermediate transmitter station.

85. (New Claim) The method of claim 84, and further comprising the step of logging said step of retransmitting.

86. (New Claim) The method of claim 85, wherein said step of logging comprises the steps of:

detecting the retransmission of a unit identification signal during the retransmission of the selected unit of programming from the intermediate transmitter station to the receiver station; and

logging said step of retransmitting based on said step of detecting the retransmission of the unit identification signal.

87. (New Claim) A method of communicating television programming in a television communications network, said communications network having at least one programming origination station, at least one intermediate transmitter station, and at least one viewer station, said method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a plurality of channels of television programming concurrently from said at least one programming origination station to said at least one intermediate transmitter station, said television programming including at least one of (i) audio and (ii) a plurality of video images to be displayed in a predetermined sequence to portray motion, at least one of said plurality of channels communicating at least one identification signal, said at least one identification signal identifying at least a portion of said television programming;

storing a programming schedule at said at least one intermediate transmitter station;

receiving said plurality of channels of programming at said at least one intermediate transmitter station;

detecting said at least one identification signal;

retransmitting said plurality of channels of programming on a plurality of retransmission channels or frequencies;  
selecting at least one of said plurality of retransmission channels or frequencies based on said detected at least one identification signal;  
comparing said detected at least one identification signal to said programming schedule;  
selecting said at least said portion of said received television programming for storage at said at least one intermediate transmitter station based on said step of comparing;  
storing said selected at least said portion of said television programming at said at least one intermediate transmitter station;  
transmitting said selected at least said portion of said television programming from one or more of said received plurality of channel of programming from said at least one intermediate transmitter station over said at least one selected one of said plurality of retransmission channels or frequencies to said at least one viewer station based on said programming schedule;  
receiving, at said at least one viewer station, said television programming transmitted from said at least one intermediate transmitter station.

88. (New Claim) The method of claim 87, wherein said step of storing the selected television programming comprises the steps of:  
directing the received channel or channels of programming containing the selected television programming to one or more programming storage devices located at the intermediate transmitter station; and  
storing the selected television programming on the one or more storage devices.

89. (New Claim) The method of claim 88, wherein said step of directing comprises the step of configuring a switch under computer control to connect the received channels of programming to the one or more programming storage devices.

90. (New Claim) A method of controlling a remote television transmitter station and a television receiver station, said method comprising the steps of:

communicating an information transmission from an origination station to said remote television transmitter station, said information transmission including a plurality of channels of television programming, a first signal and a second signal, said plurality of channels of television programming including at least one of (i) audio and (ii) a plurality of video images to be displayed in a predetermined sequence to portray motion;

storing a programming schedule at the remote television transmitter station;

receiving the information transmission at the remote television transmitter station;

detecting the first signal;

comparing the first signal to the programming schedule;

retransmitting said plurality of channels of programming on a plurality of retransmission channels or frequencies;

selecting at least one of said plurality of retransmission channels or frequencies based on said detected first signal;

retransmitting said plurality of channels of television programming and said second signal from the intermediate transmitter station over said at least one selected one of said plurality of retransmission channels or frequencies to said receiver station, based on said step of comparing;

receiving at the television receiver station the television programming and the second signal;

detecting the second signal; and

outputting said television programming at the television receiver station based on said second signal.

91. (New Claim) A method of controlling a remote television transmitter station and a television receiver station, said method comprising the steps of:

communicating an information transmission from an origination station to said remote television transmitter station, said information transmission including a plurality of channels of television programming, a first signal and a second signal, said plurality of channels of television programming including at least one of (i) audio and (ii) a plurality of video images to be displayed in a predetermined sequence to portray motion;

receiving the information transmission at the remote television transmitter station;

detecting the first signal at said remote television transmitter station;

performing a function at the remote television transmitter station based on said detected first signal;

retransmitting said plurality of channels of television programming on a plurality of retransmission channels or frequencies;

selecting at least one of said plurality of retransmission channels or frequencies based on said detected first signal;

retransmitting said plurality of channels of television programming and said second signal from the remote television transmitter station over said at least one selected one of said plurality of retransmission channels or frequencies to said television receiver station;

receiving at the television receiver station at least said plurality of channels of television programming and said second signal;

detecting said second signal at said television receiver station;

performing a function at the television receiver station based upon said detected second signal.

92. (New Claim) A method of claim 91, wherein said step of communicating comprises the step of communicating an information transmission from an origination station to an intermediate transmitter station, said information transmission comprising television programming, a first signal and a second signal, wherein each of said signals are one or more from the group consisting of:

an identification signal identifying a source of television programming;

an identification signal identifying television programming;

an identification signal identifying an origination station;

a signal that instructs the recording of television programming;

a signal that instructs the delayed transmission of television programming;

a signal that instructs the retransmission of television programming according to a programming schedule;



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a signal that instructs a computer to contact a remote station;  
a signal that instructs a tuner to tune to a specific channel or frequency;  
a signal that instructs a decrypter to decrypt;  
a switch control signal for controlling the operation or configuration of a switch;  
an instruct-to-generate signal that instructs a computer to generate information;  
an instruct-to-output signal that instructs a computer to output information;  
a signal that coordinates a multimedia presentation;  
an environmental control signal; and  
a signal for controlling the operation of an equipment addressed by the signal.

93. (New Claim) A method of controlling a remote television transmitter station and a television receiver station, said method comprising the steps of  
communicating an information transmission from an origination station to said remote television transmitter station, said information transmission containing a plurality of channels of television programming and a first signal, said plurality of channels of television programming including at least one of (i) audio and (ii) a plurality of video images to be displayed in a predetermined sequence to portray motion;  
receiving the information transmission at said remote television transmitter station;  
detecting the first signal at said remote television transmitter station;

performing a function at said remote television transmitter station based on said detected first signal;

embedding, at said remote television transmitter station, a second signal in the information transmission containing said television programming;

retransmitting said plurality of channels of television programming on a plurality of retransmission channels or frequencies;

selecting at least one of said plurality of retransmission channels or frequencies based on said detected first signal;

transmitting said plurality of channels of television programming and said embedded second signal from the remote television transmitter station over said at least one selected one of said plurality of retransmission channels or frequencies to said television receiver station;

receiving at the television receiver station said at least said plurality of channels of television programming and said embedded second signal;

detecting the second signal at said television receiver station;

performing a function at the television receiver station based upon said detected second signal.

94. (New Claim) A method of communicating television programming in a communications network, said communications network including at least one origination station and at least one intermediate transmission station, said at least one intermediate transmission station having at least one transmitter, at least one receiver, at least one selective transfer device for transferring programming from said at least one receiver to said at least one transmitter, at least one automatic control unit operatively connected to said selective transfer

device, and at least one signal detector operatively connected to said at least one automatic control unit, said method comprising the steps of:

transmitting from said at least one origination station an information transmission containing a plurality of channels of television programming, said plurality of channels of television programming including at least one of (i) audio and (ii) a plurality of video images to be displayed in a predetermined sequence to portray motion, and said information transmission including at least one retransmission control signal;

transmitting at least one signal for comparison from said at least one origination station;

said at least one intermediate transmission station detecting and passing to said at least one automatic control unit said at least one retransmission control signal;

receiving said plurality of channels of television programming;

retransmitting said plurality of channels of television programming on a plurality of retransmission channels or frequencies;

selecting at least one of said plurality of retransmission channels or frequencies based on said at least one retransmission control signal;

receiving and passing to said at least one automatic control unit said at least one signal for comparison; and

performing at least one of the steps of (1) selectively storing at least a portion of said plurality of channels of television programming based on said at least one comparison performed by said at least one automatic control unit and (2) selectively transferring said plurality of channels of television programming for transmission over said at least one selected one of said plurality of

retransmission channels or frequencies in accordance with said at least one retransmission control signal.

95. (New Claim) A method of communicating a plurality of channels of television programming in a communications network, said communications network including at least one origination station and at least one intermediate transmission station, said at least one intermediate transmission station having at least one transmitter, at least one receiver, at least one selective transfer device for transferring said plurality of channels of television programming from said at least one receiver to said at least one transmitter, at least one automatic control unit operatively connected to said selective transfer device, and at least one signal detector operatively connected to said at least one automatic control unit, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one signal for comparison at said at least one origination station, said at least one signal for comparison being effective at said at least one intermediate transmission station to serve as a basis for instructing said at least one automatic control unit regarding at least a portion of said plurality of channels of television programming to store;

receiving said plurality of channels of television programming at said at least one origination station, said plurality of channels of television programming including at least one of (i) audio and (ii) a plurality of video images to be displayed in a predetermined sequence to portray motion; delivering said plurality of channels of television programming and said at least one signal for comparison to said at least one transmitter, said signal for comparison being included in an information transmission containing said plurality of channels of television programming and being delivered to said at